GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:340
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2002
PUBLISHING OF VULNERABILITY ATLAS OF INDIA
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Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a): whether it is a fact that the Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council has published vulnerability Atlas of India;

(b): if so, the salient features of the Atlas;

(c): whether copies of this Atlas have been sent to State Governments;

(d): if so, the details thereof; and

(e): the follow-up action taken after publication of the Atlas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The Atlas contains:

a) hazard maps of each State and Union Territory indicating earthquake, cyclone and flood prone areas and possible intensities/severity of such hazards upto district level;

b) the risk levels of the existing housing stock as per 1991 Census in each district.

(c)&(d): The Vulnerability Atlas was released during conference of Housing & Urban Development Ministers invited by the Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation. One of the recommendations made at the conference was to prepare Statewise Vulnerability Atlases for use by the State and Union Territory Governments. Accordingly, State Vulnerability Atlases were prepared and circulated to the concerned State Governments.

The State Governments were also informed that the Atlas provides a ready reference for State and local authorities to plan preventive actions which should be taken to improve preparedness and to minimize the likely damage due to natural disasters.

(e): After publishing the Vulnerability Atlas of India, action has been taken as follows:-

In May 1998, all the States/Union Territories were advised to bring in necessary modifications in their respective building bye-laws and regulations, land use zoning, development control rules and town & country planning acts based on the recommendations of the Expert Group set up for the purpose by this Ministry.

The Hon. Minister for Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation addressed Chief Ministers of all the States/Union Territories in Feb. 2001 to adopt a Techno Legal Regime involving amendments and revision of existing building bye-laws and regulations to ensure quake resistant construction of buildings and houses on priority basis.

A meeting of the Ministers Incharge of Housing, Urban Development and Local Self Government from all States/Union Territories was held in March, 2001. The main issue impressed upon the Ministers and the representatives of all the States in this meeting was that there is imminent need to suitably modify the Building Bye-laws and Development Control Regulations and other regulatory instruments by mandatory instruments by mandatory provisions to ensure use of existing standards and guidelines for construction of earthquake resistant houses and other buildings.

Responding to the advice given by the Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, the State Governments of Gujarat, Orissa, Delhi, Chhatishgarh and Union Territories of Chandigarh and Daman & Diu have issued notification amending their Building Bye-laws, Development Control Regulations of the Municipal Corporations, Development authorities and municipal towns. The matters is under consideration in the States/Union Territories of Kerala, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Madhya Pradesh.